

REMARKS

In accordance with the above amendments, claims 1, 8, 9, 14, 18, 23, 35, 36 and 41 are currently amended. Claims 5, 16, 19, 29-31, 37, 43, and 44 (9 claims) have been cancelled and claims 2-4, 6, 7, 10-13, 15, 17, 20-22, 24-28, 32-34, 38-40, 42 and 45-55 have been left unchanged.

While only original claims 24, 28, 38-42 and 45-55 were allowed, the Examiner has indicated that claims 5, 8-10, 16, 17, 19-21, and 33-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The amendment to claim 1 set forth above follows the Examiner's findings and adds to claim 1 the elements recited in claim 5. Thus, claim 1 should be allowable.

The amendment to claim 14 set forth above follows the Examiner's findings and adds to claim 14 the elements recited in claim 16. Thus, claim 14 should be allowable.

The amendment to claim 18 set forth above follows the Examiner's findings and adds to claim 18 the elements recited in claims 14 and 19. Thus, claim 18 should be allowable.

The claims have been amended in order to place them in proper dependent form with respect to method and apparatus in order to meet the objections raised by the Examiner in the

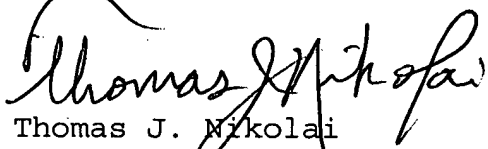
Official Action. No new matter has been added and all the present claims should be of an allowable scope.

In view of the foregoing amendments, taken with the explanatory remarks included herein, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Should any issues remain believed resolvable by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss them.

Respectfully submitted,

NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Nikolai", is written over the typed name.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the Amendment in response to the Official Action mailed July 15, 2004, in Application No. 09/703,746, filed November 1, 2000, entitled "SECURITY SYSTEM FOR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICES", for Ron A. Balczewski, et al. is being sent by First Class Mail to: Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

July 28, 2004.

Bonnie Ryan

On Behalf of Thomas J. Nikolai